

**Remarks by Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr.
Baguio Holiday Party
December 17, 2010**

Ladies and gentlemen, *Naimbag nga rabii kadakayo amin!* Welcome to the United States Embassy Residence in Baguio. We are delighted to welcome you this evening as we celebrate the holidays.

I always enjoy travelling to Baguio. Though founded by Americans many years ago, it has been the local citizens who have made this city what it is today. From rebuilding after the 1990 earthquake, to the response following last year's landslides, the people here have always demonstrated a strong community spirit. And I truly am happy to be here tonight.

At this time each year, we join with family and friends to celebrate what matters most. And I can think of no better place to celebrate than in this historical building, in this historical city – my second home in the Philippines. And I can think of no better company to share this Christmas party with than our Filipino friends and our second family tonight – the people of Baguio City.

Thank you! And please, enjoy our food and refreshments. *Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat, at Manigong Bagong Taon.*